

Introduction

The annual meeting of the Czech and Slovak Physiological Societies – **88th Physiological Days** – was held in Hradec Králové in February 2012. The meeting was organized by the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine in Hradec Králové, Charles University in Prague. There were 137 participants registered for the 88th Physiological Days: 76 from the Czech Republic, 59 from Slovak Republic, and 2 from Kuwait. Promising is the fact that almost half of the participants were postgraduate students. The scientific programme consisted of 58 oral communications and 43 poster presentations. The programme started with the honorary Purkyně lecture given by Professor Martin Vízek on *Ventilation response to hypoxia* followed by traditional pedagogical lecture presented by Associated Professor Halka Lotková entitled *Hepatoprotectives – is it possible to protect liver cells against injury?*

During the preparatory period of the meeting the Board of the Czech Physiological Society together with Organizing Committee decided to provide the opportunity to active participants of the meeting to publish the results of their work in a special Supplementum of Physiological Research. It happened for the first time in the long lasting history of these meetings. Consequently, the Committee for preparing the Supplementum was established (Guest editors: J. Otáhal, O. Kittnar, J. Pokorný, M. Holeček). It is our great privilege to introduce this issue of Physiological Research devoted to the scientific papers presented at 88th Physiological Days.

Due to the unexpected interest to publish in the special issue the Board of our society decided to accept

for review process only papers based on oral presentations. Peer review process consisted of two steps. From 23 contributions sent to the editorial board of supplementum of Physiological Research were excluded those having a topic obviously out of the scope of the journal. The decision in the first step was based on the oral presentations at the meeting and abstracts. The second step was based on standard 2-4 peer reviews for each manuscript. Finally, 15 scientific papers (3 reviews and 12 original articles) were accepted to be published in the supplementum of Physiological Research. We hope that this endeavour will help you to be properly informed about the latest scientific achievements of the members of our societies. We would like to express our thanks to all contributors and especially colleagues participating on the reviewing and editing manuscripts.

Next annual meeting of the Czech and Slovak Physiological Societies (89th Physiological Days) will be organized by Institute of Physiology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Prague in February 2013. For further information about the Czech Physiological Society and especially on upcoming events please check official website of the Czech Physiological Society (<http://cfs.lf1.cuni.cz/>).

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